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ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

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VISUAL ARTS
DIVISION

PROGRAMS
AND
SERVICES

ABOUT THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL

Created by the Illinois General Assembly in 1965, the Illinois Arts Council (IAC) encourages development of the arts throughout Illinois. Through special programs and services, the Council provides financial assistance, information and advocacy to individual artists and arts organizations.

Now in its third decade, the Illinois Arts Council acts as a catalyst in promoting the continued vitality and excellence of the arts in our state. Ensuring that all citizens have access to quality artistic programs is the Council's primary goal.

The Illinois Arts Council is governed by a Council of up to 35 citizens from throughout Illinois, who are appointed by the Governor. Chosen for their demonstrated commitment to the arts, the Council is charged with developing the state's public arts policy, fostering quality cultural programs and approving grants expenditures.

Advisory panels, composed of volunteer individual, state-wide experts, are appointed by the Council Chairman to assist the Council in the review of grants applications and to lend expertise on policy and program development.

A full professional staff administers and develops the Council's programs, assists grants applicants and provides pertinent information to the public. The staff travels extensively around the state, providing hands-on technical assistance and advice to artists, arts and community organizations.

Following are brief descriptions of the specific programs and services of the IAC Visual Arts Division:

Program Grants are designed to support visual arts organizations, museums, galleries, art centers, arts and crafts guilds/leagues, service organizations and other not-for-profit organizations doing visual arts programming. These grants may supplement operational expenses or assist in the development and presentation of specific projects or activities.

Artists Fellowships Program awards non-matching fellowships and finalist awards to Illinois visual artists of exceptional talent to enable them to pursue their artistic goals. Awards are made based upon the quality of the work submitted and the evolving professional accomplishments of the applicant.

Special Assistance Grants are project-specific matching grants available throughout the year to visual arts organizations and individual artists. These grants are given to address specific artistic, programmatic, administrative or technical needs.

Partners in Purchase Program provides matching funds to purchase completed works of living Illinois visual or media artists. This program enables institutions such as museums, art or media centers, college or university galleries and libraries to add to their permanent collections and promotes the recognition of Illinois' creative artists.

Exhibition Development Program provides matching funds to not-for-profit organizations and independent curators for the development and completion of traveling exhibits featuring Illinois artists or works from important Illinois collections. The developed exhibitions are toured for a period of two years throughout Illinois as part of the IAC's Traveling Exhibits Program. Some of these exhibits are presented at the State of Illinois Art Gallery in Chicago.

Traveling Exhibits Program makes exhibits available to Illinois not-for-profit organizations for a nominal rental fee. These professionally-curated exhibits, developed through the IAC's Exhibition Development Program, feature works by living Illinois artists as well as contemporary and historical art from important collections.

Following are brief descriptions of other IAC programs and services of interest to the visual arts community:

Arts-in-Education Residency Program provides support to primary and secondary educational institutions, community colleges and not-for-profit local arts and community organizations for artist residencies. Artists are selected by the sponsoring sites through inclusion on the Arts-in-Education Residency Roster.

The Illinois Artists Registry is a computerized mailing list for artists and anyone wanting to contact artists. The Registry contains up-to-date information about Illinois artists who wish to be listed. By signing up with the Registry, visual artists can increase their exposure and business opportunities many times over. The Registry is designed as a comprehensive directory to link artists with professional opportunities.

Illinois Art Fair Directory is an annual publication, available free of charge, providing a sampling of the myriad of arts fairs taking place throughout Illinois each year. The Illinois Arts Council publishes this directory as a service to art fair sponsors, artists and the general public. The Directory lists specific information for artists wishing to participate in each fair. Information included is obtained from fair sponsors.

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A Legacy of Excellence Visual Arts Programs at the Illinois Arts Council

From Mt. Vernon to Rockford, from Quincy to Kankakee, the Illinois Arts Council's Visual Arts Programs serve one of the largest arts constituencies in Illinois. Through a variety of innovative programs, financial support and technical assistance are provided to Illinois' not-for-profit visual arts organizations and to its artists who are nationally recognized as among the finest talent in the country.

The ultimate benefits are shared by the state's many diverse communities and cultures by providing opportunities for them to attend exhibitions, lectures and "hands on" activities at the many world-class museums, galleries, art centers and guilds statewide.

In addition to providing a funding base to organizations for these activities, the Visual Arts division also supports performance art events, staffing, promotional activities, publications and projects such as workshops and seminars that foster discourse among visual artists. The individual visual artist can benefit not only by the Council's support to organizations, but also through programs that directly support the artists in pursuit of their artistic goals.

The impact of and support provided by the IAC Visual Arts programs places Illinois at the very pinnacle of effective state arts programming in the nation and provides a role model for other states to follow.

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For specific information on Visual Arts Programs contact:

Visual Arts Program Staff

For general information on the Illinois Arts Council contact:

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